
Title: The Morning After 1

Author: Professor Ellie Rafkin

The jungle air was cool.
Morning dew weighed on
nearby palms and chirping
birds welcomed the rising
sun. I'd only managed a
few hours sleep and woke
groggy, my mind was in a
fog. Several porters had
been attacked in the
middle of the night, what
remained of their corpses
was covered in a thick
yellowish-green mucous.
The escorts managed to
defend against the
Myrmidex, but not before
they had their chance at
us. The escorts assembled
the corpses, both of the
porters and the Myrmidex
a short ways from the
camp so that I could
examine them. As I
meandered awkwardly
through the camp I looked
at the men who'd been
escorting me. Their faces
looked tired and worn. It
had been months since we
first set foot into the
Valley. I remembered the
exhilaration I felt when I
stepped through the
Moongate and the
lushness of the Valley of
Eodon came into my focus
for the first time. Eodon,
despite its dangers, was
a truly remarkable place.

Flora and fauna
previously unknown to
Britannia was ripe for
study. Creatures, both
friendly and foe, looked
upon us with an equal
level of curiosity. I had
spent these months

carefully indexing and cataloging everything we'd come across. The landscape, the beautiful flowers, the curious creatures that called Eodon home. Inside one of our tents a small table had a modest selection of provisions. Our cook had unfortunately fallen from a sheer rock face so we'd been surviving on rations of salted fish steaks and whatever fruit we could forage from the jungle. If I'd never seen another banana in my life it'd be too soon. The corpse showed clear signs of mastication.

I had learned much about the biology of the Myrmidex since we first encountered them. From my observations I knew there were three stages in the growth cycle. Like most insects the Myrmidex grew from a single egg implanted into an organic host. These eggs were mostly implanted by the drone of the species, often moderately sized with modified fangs that served as ovipositors.